GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1835
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2000
ACQUISITION OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER
UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Armed Forces are facing shortage of aircraft carriers;

(b) if so, the total number of aircraft carriers available with the Armed Forces;

(c) whether aircraft carriers are proposed to be purchased from abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Currently the Indian Navy has one aircraft carrier, viz, INS Viraat in its service against the requirement of two operational aircraft carriers. The Government have approved the indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship for the Indian Navy in 1999.

(c) & (d): The Government of the Russian Federation haveoffered to gift "Admiral Gorshkov", an Aircraft Carrier, to India. However, it will require to be repaired, modified and modernised before it can be inducted into service of Indian Navy. An Inter- Governmental Agreement in this regard has been signed between Indian and Russian sides on 4.10.2000.